

· FORTY-FIRST ·

ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth,

For the Year 1913,

BY

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LOUTH;

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LOUTH

Rural Sanitary District.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1913.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Acts Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

The number of deaths during the year ended December, 1913, has been 219, or 12 below the previous quinquennial average. The death rate per thousand has been 12·02 or ·52 below the average of the previous five years. The death rate from all causes in the year 1912 for England and Wales was 13·3 per thousand, this is the lowest yet recorded. The death rate from all causes has *declined 27 per cent.* between 1891—1900 and 1912. In our district 31 infants died this year, under a year old, against 30 last year. These two years shew a great improvement on the previous 4 years, when the average was 44·2. 18 died this year of premature birth, debility, and malformation. The death rate per 1000 births, under a year old was 79·47, the previous quinquennial average was 95·5. The number of births was 384, against an average of 395 the previous five years. The birth rate per thousand was 21·41 against 21·3 in the previous quinquennial average. The natural increase of population was 146. Further particulars respecting the births and deaths will be found in tables I., III., and IV., in the Appendix.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 32 notifications of epidemic infectious disease, and 30 of Tuberculous disease. When an epidemic infectious disease is notified, steps are at once taken to find out the cause, and remove it, and instructions are given, respecting isolation, disinfection, etc., and disinfectants are usually supplied. When the Medical attendant reports that the case is sufficiently recovered, the house is disinfected by the Inspector. When necessary the Day School is closed, and disinfected without delay. There is no Isolation Hospital, the houses being so scattered, and the cases so few, that it is thought unnecessary. With the view of preventing the spread of infection, I have your authority to hire a house or a part of a house, if I think it necessary, to which an infected person may be removed and isolated. The following is a list of the cases notified during the year 1913, viz :—

Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	...	...	11
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	6
Enteric Fever	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	22
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	8
			—
			62

For these cases, arranged according to diseases, ages, and districts, see Table II. in the Appendix.

There were only 5 deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz. :—

Measles	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	3

This is very satisfactory.

SCARLET FEVER.

The cases have been mild, and there has been no death. The precautions taken have been usually successful in preventing the spread of the disease. Our percentage of cases comes third lowest in the ten rural districts of the County of Lindsey, only Caistor and the Isle of Axholme being lower.

Of the 11 cases, solitary ones have occurred in March at Theddlethorpe, Aby, and South Thoresby; in Aby in July; in North Somercotes in October, and at Donington in November. The Somercotes case was imported from Manchester. In November 3 cases occurred at North Cockerington, two in one house, and one in another. On December 16th, 20th and 26th cases were reported in one house at Theddlethorpe.

ENTERIC FEVER.

It is gratifying to notice that only two cases were reported, making a percentage of $\cdot 11$, or after deducting one which proved to be a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis $\cdot 05$, making us the 5th lowest of the Rural districts of the County of Lincoln. The other case was of a child 8 years old, who probably contracted it at Grimsby.

DIPHTHERIA and MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Eleven cases have been reported. Our district stands the 6th lowest of the rural districts of Lindsey. There have been 7 centres of infection. In 4 there were single cases, in 2 double, and in one 3. As anti-toxin is extensively used, there has only been one death and that was in a child of 10 years old. The anti-toxin, with the other precautions taken, have usually checked the disease. A case occurred at the School House, Tetney, for which no cause could be detected. The next two were in one house at Trusthorpe, where there was nothing insanitary. There was a solitary case at Binbrook in April. A foul nuisance was found in a field opposite and was removed. Another case was notified at the end of May, where the premises were in a good sanitary state. In July, 3 cases occurred in one house at Utterby. The man caught the disease by cleaning out a cesspool when he was run down, and infected his children by kissing them. A delicate boy at Aby contracted the disease in November, but recovered. A brick maker at Grimsby was taken with Diphtheria, and coming home to Conisholme to be nursed, his brother became infected.

ERYSIPELAS.—Six cases were notified, all of autogenetic origin. There were no deaths, and nothing insanitary was found on the premises.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases occurred, both of which were fatal; one had Tuberculosis in an advanced stage. In the other the premises were sanitary, but paralysis of the bowels set in, and proved fatal.

MEASLES has been prevalent in different parts of the district, but only proved fatal in one instance.

WHOOPING COUGH appeared in a few villages, but no deaths occurred.

INFLUENZA.—Two died of this disease.

DIARRHŒA and ENTERITIS caused 3 deaths against two in 1912.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notifications was 30, of these 22 were pulmonary, and 8 other varieties of the disease.

1. PULMONARY.—9 died, 2 recovered at home, 2 are improving at home, 4 are stationary, 3 were removed to Sanatoria, and 2 moved out of the district.—Total 22.
2. Other varieties of Tuberculosis 8. Of these 2 died, 1 recovered, 1 is improving, 1 was removed to Hull Infirmary, and amputation was performed, the patient recovering with the loss of a leg. 1 is going backward, and 2 have left the district.

Six cases are left from former years. When a case is notified, enquiry is made as to its origin, the condition and sanitary surroundings of the patient, the family history, and whether anything can be done to relieve the patient, and prevent infection. Where necessary, spittoons are provided, and unhealthy conditions are remedied as far as practicable. Two suitable leaflets, (one drawn up by myself) are given, and also verbal instructions as to the precautions necessary to prevent infection. If death occurs the house is disinfected, and in suitable cases communications have been made to Dr. Clegg, and the County Authorities to facilitate admission to a Sanatorium; or the provision of a shelter; and here *I would strongly advise the provision of shelters in preference to Sanatoria*. Where a double shelter is provided, I believe the system not only to be less expensive,—but more efficient—and less trying to the patient, especially now a staff of 5 competent medical men has been provided by the County Council, for the treatment and supervision of the treatment of the disease.

SANITARY WORK.

Both the Inspector and I have made systematic inspections of the district during the year. The following is Mr. Higginson's report:—

I beg to report as follows with respect to the sanitary work in the district during the year ending 31st of December, 1913.

Canal Boats inspected—4

Informal Notices served for abatement of nuisances—125

Statutory Notices served for abatement of nuisances—12

Schools cleansed and disinfected on account of infectious disease—12

Rooms in houses, disinfected for ditto—25

Rooms in houses, disinfected after consumption—18

Houses repaired—18

- Houses repaired through dampness—10
- Houses provided with better ventilation—26
- Houses overcrowding abated—2
- New improved privies erected—7
- New pail or pan closets erected—18
- Privies converted into pails or pan closets—41
- Pail closets repaired—8
- Vault privies converted into shovel holes—10
- Privies repaired—4
- Vault privies converted into improved privy middens—4
- Foul privies pulled down—14
- Ashpits removed or abolished—8
- Drains repaired or trapped—25
- Drains relaid or reconstructed—20
- New drains laid—7
- Sink pipes and down spouts disconnected from drains—8
- Sewer relaid, 70 yards in length—1
- New cesspools constructed—6
- Cesspools repaired—2
- Sewage tanks cleaned out—2
- Foul dykes cleaned out—1
- Foul accumulations removed—36
- Back Yards or paths concreted, repaired, &c,—19
- Animals improperly kept, removed—2
- New Urinals erected—6
- Foul Urinals removed—2
- New Wells sunk—1
- Well cleaned out—1
- Spouting, &c., to houses repaired, &c.—6
- The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909—303
- The number of dwelling-houses, which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous, or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation—15
- The number of representations made to the local authority with view to the making of closing orders—3
- The number of closing orders made—3
- The number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders—64
- The number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation—1

The number of dwelling-houses closed :—

- a. Without closing orders—5
- b. After closing orders—2

The number of dwelling-houses made fit for human habitation without representations being made—6

Number of houses pulled down :—

- a. Without a closing order—1
- b. After closing orders—2

The general character of the defects found were defective drains and closets, and want of general repairs.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

29 new dwelling-houses have been erected this year, against 19 in 1912. Of the 29, 19 are for the Working Classes.

4 houses have been erected in the Parishes of Legbourne and Stenigot respectively, 2 each in the Parishes of Hagnaby, Holton-le-Clay, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, North Somercotes, Tetney, and East Wykeham, and 1 in each of the Parishes of Aby, Alvingham, Conisholme, Girsby, South Elkington, Strubby and Withern.

The 4 new cottages at Stenigot are constructed on the same plan as the 10 previous ones, but the walls of 2 of them are of reinforced concrete.

The houses erected in the Parishes of Conisholme and Withern are to take the place of old ones pulled down.

Additions and alterations have been made to 6 houses by adding extra rooms, wash-houses, &c., thus considerably improving them.

(Signed), FRANK HIGGINSON,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There have been no complaints of insufficiency of accommodation or scarcity of houses in this district, and in some parishes there are houses unoccupied.

The population according to the last census is 18,285, a decrease of 202 as compared with the census of 1901, and although many old houses have been demolished, the number has increased by 104.

The cottages occupied by the Working Classes are on the whole fairly good, nearly all thatched cottages have been demolished, and the majority are constructed of brick with tiled roofs. During the past year only two cases of overcrowding were discovered and were abated.

I am pleased to say there are very few cases of overcrowding, for as you are aware, the children of both sexes, when of proper age leave their homes for a situation or go into service. In June the Lindsey County Council, invited Representatives of the Rural District Council, and the members of their Public Health and Housing Committee, to meet the Rural Medical Officers of Health at Lincoln, to consider the provision of houses for the working classes of the Rural Districts. I attended on your behalf, and addressed the Conference, and spoke in favour of the adoption of Mr. Beville Stanier's Rural Cottages No. 2 Bill which you had previously carefully discussed, and approved of. This would have enabled cottages to be erected at a cost of about £200, to include a house, with 3 bedrooms and one-eighth of an acre of land with rents of 2/- or 2/6 per week (with the assistance of the Treasury) to be repaid in 68½ years. This proposal was favourably received by several members of the Conference.

DRAINAGE.

It being discovered, that crude sewage from several houses was polluting the river Lud, in the parishes of Hallington and Raithby, you appointed a Sub-committee to report upon the matter. 17 houses were found polluting the stream, and you took such action as was thought necessary. This has caused half of the nuisances to be abated, and the others are in course of abatement. About 70 yards of sewer has been relaid at Ludford Magna. The sewage works at Louth are still in course of construction.

The systems of drainage at North Somercotes, Binbrook, Aby and Ludford, are working satisfactorily. The district is wholly rural, part being inland, and part maritime. About half is flat and called "Marsh," although from being properly drained, it has ceased to be so. The other half forms part of the "Wolds" and is very hilly. The houses are scattered, there being 88 parishes, with at the last census 4,534 inhabited houses, spread over 142,263 acres. Consequently very few systems of drainage are required, the houses being drained according to their positions and surroundings and the requirements of each individual case. The sewage, house refuse, and excrement are disposed of by being mixed with the

land in the gardens and fields. Generally cesspools are made, the overflow going into the nearest dyke. These cesspools when full are cleaned out, and the sludge mixed with the land. If there is no cesspool, the refuse is put on the garden. There is no scavenging. The Inspector estimates the following as the number of sanitary conveniences in the district. Privies 1762, Pail Closets 670, and Water Closets 175.

SCHOOLS.

These have been carefully inspected during the year. At Aby, North Somercotes, and Trusthorpe new sanitary conveniences have been constructed. New drainage systems have been put in at Aby and North Somercotes. The privies at Legbourne and South Reston Schools have been converted into pail closets. The following schools have been closed temporarily for infectious disease viz.: For Measles in January, Binbrook; in February, Fulstow, North Ormsby, and Saleby; in March, Burgh-on-Bain, Covenham, and Ludford; in April, Kelstern; May, Ludborough. For Diphtheria, Tetney, in January. For Whooping Cough at Trusthorpe, in February. For Mumps in March, Maltby-le-Marsh. For Chicken Pox in July, Fulstow.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manure works at Binbrook, Donington-on-Bain, Marsh-chapel, North Thoresby, and Tetney Lock, have worked satisfactorily during the year.

The FACTORY and WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Has very little operation in this district which is entirely rural. It applies, however, to Bakehouses. 23 inspections have been made, and a general compliance found with its provisions; none are underground. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by you but no standard of suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops, has been found necessary.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is chiefly by pumps, artesian wells, overflowing springs and a few surface wells. Each house or set of houses, is

supplied according to circumstances. Withcall, South Elkington, Raithby, Stenigot, and some of the Wold villages have their water pumped up by rams and windmills. The water in the district is usually very good. Where it is impure in any degree, action is taken by your orders, to secure a wholesome supply within a reasonable distance. I have analysed 7 samples, and found 4 good and 3 bad. Of the latter, a new bore has been sunk in one case, the well has been cleaned out, and the supply is now good, in the second case and the third, the defects have been remedied.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.

The number of cowsheds is 10. 20 inspections have been made.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their continued kindness and courtesy to me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES J. MYERS, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 17th, 1914.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I. RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH (for whole District).

Vital Statistics during 1913 and previous years.

YEAR. 1	Population estimated to middle of each year. 2	Births. Nett			Deaths at all ages, Total.		Deaths of non- residents regis- tered in district. 8	Deaths of resi- dents registered beyond district. 9	Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all ages.	
		Uncorrected Number. 3	+Number. 4	Rate.* 5	Number.* 6	Rate. 7			Number. 10	Rate per 1000 births 11	Number. 12	Rate.* 13
1908	18,506	420		22.7	237	12.8		7	48	114.2	237	12.8
1909	18,506	395		21.3	247	13.3		14	37	93.6	247	13.3
1910	18,506	409		21.1	224	12.0		9	27	66.0	224	12.0
1911	18,280	383		20.95	241	13.18	1	19	55	143.6	259	14.16
1912	18,015	372	374	20.76	206	11.43	1	13	30	80.21	218	12.11
1913	18,208	384	390	21.41	219	12.02	4	29	31	79.47	244	13.40

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 153,309.
Total population at all ages, 18,285. Number of inhabited houses
4,430. Average number of persons per house 4.10. At Census of
1911.

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED during the Year 1913. RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.													
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.							Total Cases notified in each Locality					Total Cases removed to Hospital or Sanatoria
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Bimbrook	Louth	Saltfleet	Tetney	Withern	
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards						
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	11	3	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	11	1	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	22	...	1	8	9	4	...	3	5	7	5	3	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	8	...	1	3	3	1	...	1	2	...	1	2	2
Totals ...	62	4	17	14	18	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE III.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1913.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.												
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards				
All causes { Certified ...	235	31	5	1	5	11	17	41	124				
Uncertified ...	9				1	1	1	1	5				
Measles ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12	...	...	...	...	4	6	2	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ..	34	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	26	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	8	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	13	...	1	...	1	1	1	3	6	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis & Typhilitis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver }	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's... Disease ...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth ...	19	18	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	6	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases...	96	7	2	...	2	2	4	7	72	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	244	31	5	1	6	12	18	42	129	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes:										
Certified	10	1	2	2	15	0	6	5	5	31
Uncertified										
Common Infectious Diseases:										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles								1		1
Scarlet Fever										
Diphtheria: Croup										
Whooping Cough										
Diarrhœal Diseases:										
Diarrhœa, all forms						1				1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis... ..										
Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh										
Wasting Diseases:										
Premature Birth	9	1	2		12					12
Congenital Defects										
Injury at Birth										
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation... ..										
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1			2	3	3				6
Tuberculous Diseases:										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Other Causes:										
Erysipelas										
Syphilis									1	1
Rickets										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)									2	2
Convulsions						2	3	1		6
Bronchitis										
Laryngitis										
Pneumonia										
Suffocation, overlaying										
Other Causes							2			2
	10	1	2	2	15	6	5	5		31

Births in the year,—legitimate, 368; illegitimate, 22. Deaths in the year—legitimate infants, 29; illegitimate, 2.

